

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 238
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to require a progress report relative to special education caseload and class size standards.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the State Board of Education shall submit to the Select Oversight Committee on Education reports relating to special education caseload and class size standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a preliminary report, to be issued prior to February 1, 2004, shall apprise the Select Oversight Committee on Education of progress made in implementing the special education caseload and class size standards policy adopted by the State Board of Education on April 26, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the preliminary report shall include:

- (1) Verification of the implementation of the State Board of Education policy that special education class size shall not exceed the limits specified for average class size pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-104(a);

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- (2) By school district, documentation of the number of waivers requested, granted, and the circumstances necessitating the waiver;
- (3) By school district, the number of paraprofessionals required to fulfill the State Board of Education's policy;
- (4) Verification of the training of paraprofessionals when their assistance has been used to fulfill the State Board of Education's policy with or without a waiver; and
- (5) Each school system's procedures for addressing the State Board of Education's policy requiring the equitable, educationally sound placement of students, including student's disabilities and students eligible for special education services in all schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an end-of-school year report shall be issued by the State Board of Education prior to June 30, 2004. Such report shall include:

- (1) The process for reviewing and approving school district class size policies;
- (2) The results of all data collection efforts;
- (3) The preliminary results of the service delivery models study;
- (4) Descriptions of the efforts to improve intervention services and extended programming; and
- (5) A recommendation for an implementation plan of the State Board of Education's caseload and class size policy recommendations for improving staffing practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of both the preliminary and final report shall be provided to the Senate and House Education Committees, in addition to members of the Select Oversight Committee on Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

